

**Mercer Theatre's 2006-07 SEASON
THE BACKDOOR THEATRE**

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare
September 28 – October 5, 2006

Not Waving by Gen LeRoy
November 10-18, 2006

Rashomon by Faye and Michael Kanin
February 16-24, 2007

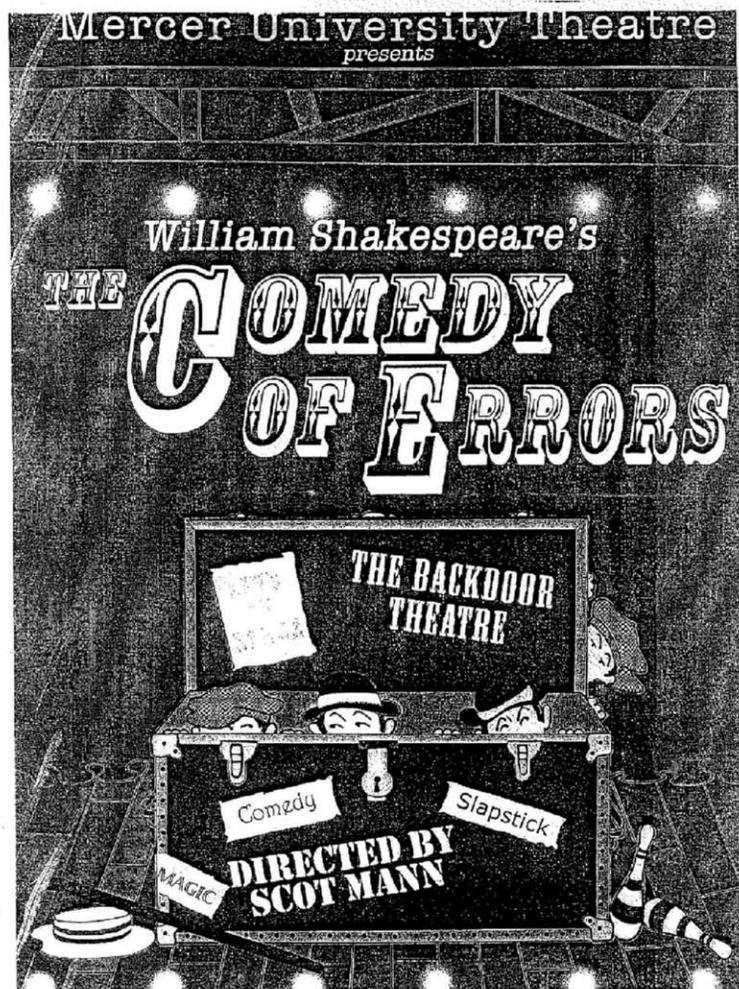
The Myth (An original work directed by Robin Ervin)
April 13-21, 2007

GET INVOLVED

**ANNOUNCING UPCOMING AUDITIONS
FOR NOT WAVING**

October 11 & 12, 6:00p.m. The Backdoor Theatre
Auditions are open to all Mercer students, faculty and staff

http://www2.mercer.edu/Liberalarts/Arts_Humanities/Comm_Theatre/theatre.htm



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Scot Mann

Set Design by Marian Zielinski
Costume Design by Shelley Kuhen
Lighting Design by Marian Zielinski
Prop Design by Tony Pearson
Sound Design by Scot Mann
Fight Direction by Scot Mann

CAST

(in order of appearance)

MC/Variou	Thomas Legare
Aegeon	Thomas Legare
Solinus	Steve Wilshire
Antiphilus of Syracuse	Andrew Boyd
Antiphilus of Ephesus	Samuel Bazemore
Dromio of Syracuse	Phillip Banze
Dromio of Ephesus	Russell Evans
First Merchant	Christina Thorington
Second Merchant	Lauren Bowling
Adriana	Alice Wiley
Luciana	Shelly Johnson
Luce	Lauren Bowling
Angelo	Christina Thorington
Balthazar	Cari Hipp
Courtesan	Shannon Johnson
Pinch	Whitney Bembry
Aemilia	Adrianna Beal
Jailer/Goaler	Stephen McDaniel

Please turn off all cell phones, beepers and pagers.
No photography is permitted during the performance.

The setting is an early Vaudevillian theatre where Ephesus, a seaport town, is created.

Act 1, Scene 1	A Hall in the Palace of Duke Solinus
Act 1, Scene 2	The Mart
Act 2, Scene 1	The House of Antiphilus of Ephesus
Act 2, Scene 2	The Mart
Act 3, Scene 1	Before the House of Antiphilus of Ephesus
Act 3, Scene 2	The Same

Intermission

Act 4, Scene 1	The Mart
Act 4, Scene 2	The House of Antiphilus of Ephesus
Act 4, Scene 3	The Mart
Act 4, Scene 4	The Mart
Act 5, Scene 1	The Mart in Front of a Priory

Director's Notes

The Comedy of Errors is one of Shakespeare's earliest works and lends itself to the broad physical comedy of the day, filled with stock characters. Its roots can be found in the Italian tradition of Commedia Del'Arte, bubbling up from the New Comedy developments of Hellenistic Theatre.

The path of these stock characters and their broad comic styling didn't stop with Shakespeare, however. You see ... they are a bit unruly by nature and hard to pin down.

After accelerating through the Restoration, these characters continued to bully their way through every time period, crossing the Atlantic in spite of the Puritans and forging their own path through the American landscape. They could be found in the dance halls of the American West before gathering for a seemingly unorganized romp through long evenings of entertainment on the Vaudeville stage. Classic comedy acts of the early American cinema were honed on these stages before leaping onto silent films. Artists like Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, The Marx Brothers, Ethel Merman, and a host of others took their stock characters from the stage to a new medium, radio, then charged onto the silver screen. They particularly influenced the comedies of the 30's, 40's, and 50's before they hijacked our newly developed television sets and invaded our living rooms. They live there to this day in the reruns of *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and *M*A*S*H*, and "new" shows like *My Name is Earl*. Sorry, Earl, it's nothing new to take an old form and re-vamp it for a modern audience. Shakespeare did the same about 1590 with *The Comedy of Errors* when he took the stock characters and plot written by the ancient Roman, Plautus, removed the title *The Menoachini*, and added his own flavor and details.

Our comedy is set at that magical time on the American stage when the stock comic characters seemed to run wild. They were actually busy creating the basis for our modern sitcoms, just as Shakespeare was further refining the comic tradition of theatre. Of course, you can't convince these characters they are doing something useful. It was difficult enough corralling them through our rehearsals and keeping their minds on the plays. No matter, they sure are fun!

Scot J. Mann

Who's Who

Phillip Banze (Dromio of Syracuse) is a sophomore here at Mercer University. He is a Criminal Justice major and a Theatre minor. This will be Phillip's third production in the Backdoor Theatre. He is an active volunteer in the Mercer University scene shop. Special thanks to Billy and Oscar, two of the greatest names in theatre.

Samuel Bazemore (Antipholus of Ephesus) is a junior at Mercer, majoring in Theatre and English. Samuel hails all the way from Flint, Michigan, where no winter is complete without a few feet of snow. Previous Mercer productions include *Arcadia*, *Black Comedy*, *The Arkansas Bear*, and *A Lesson Before Dying*. Samuel would like to think his beloved family and friends for their continuous support as well as a special thanks to his older brother Henry for the inspiration to follow his dream.

Adrianna Beal (Aemelia) is a Spanish/Biology double major and daughter of Ms. Pam Beal and Mr. Bruce Beal. She hails from Jackson, TN, where she was a part of both high school and community theatre productions. She is a sophomore at Mercer, and is excited to be working with this cast in her debut role at the Backdoor Theatre.

Whitney Bembry (Pinch/Merchant), is a sophomore Pre-Medical student, appearing in her second show at the Backdoor Theater. Whitney's debut was in *Celebration*. Whitney is originally from Hawkinsville, Georgia. She is the daughter of John and Alfreda Bembry. In addition to acting, Whitney is an accomplished vocalist and enjoys playing the piano and the flute. Along with her pre-medical studies, Whitney is currently studying mathematics, biology, music, and communication and theater arts.

Andrew Boyd (Antipholus of Syracuse) is a freshman at Mercer University, majoring in English with a minor in Philosophy. This is his first show at the Backdoor Theatre. He would like to thank Billy and Oscar, two of the greatest names in theatre. Break a leg, all!

Terrasina Bowden (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Pre-Pharmacy student from Hamlet, North Carolina, gracing the technical stage for the first time as Assistant Stage Manager. The daughter of Wendy Nicholson and Leonard Bowden has a knack for organization and promptness. Terrasina is an active member of A.G.A.P.E.'s dance, step, praise and worship, and women's fellowship ministries. She is also a member of the Organization of Black Students and is very active in her home community.

Lauren Bowling (*Luca/Emilio*) is a sophomore Voice major from Rome, Georgia. Lauren has appeared in over 15 productions since 1998 including her work with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. Her favorite roles were as Emilia in *Othello* (2004), Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes!* (2005) and Geneva in *Bright Ideas* (2005). Most recently Lauren appeared as Miep in Macon Little Theatre's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This is her first Mercer Theatre production.

Victor Bula (Stage Manager) is a South Floridian native now to Georgia. He has worked as both performer and stage crew in multiple high school productions including *Julius Caesar*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *All in the Timing*. Many thanks to the cast and director for their impressive work ethic and talent.

Russell Evans (Dromio of Ephesus), a Senior, is a Marketing Management major and Technical Communication minor making his Backdoor Theatre debut. His favorite roles include: Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown*, and most recently, Frederick Fleet in *Titanic*. Russell is the son of Wayne and Denise Evans of Rome, Georgia whom he promised he would not participate in any theater productions this semester, but his passion for the theater was too much to keep him away. Num-nums!

Evelyn Funderburk (Costume Crew/Dresser) is a sophomore who is studying chemistry. She has been working in Mercer's costume shop for the past year. Evelyn also does some volunteer work with Theatre Macon and their costume shop. She wants to thank Mrs. Shelley and Professor Mann for allowing her the opportunity to work with the drama department at Mercer and hopes to one day be seen on stage with all the other wonderful actors here at Mercer.

Cari Hipp (Balthazar) This is Cari's first play at Mercer. She hails from Newnan, Georgia and is currently majoring in Sociology. She is a freshman and loves participating in both theater and music programs. She's been in *Good News; Guys and Dolls*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Shannon Johnson (Courtesan) Shannon is a sophomore Communication and Theatre Arts major from Dallas, Texas. She was in several shows in middle school and high school and this is her third production at Mercer. Last year, Shannon played the role of Natalya in David Mamet's adaptation of *The Three Sisters* and was also Voice-Over in *Hot 'n' Throbbing* by Paula Vogel. Shannon thanks her friends and family in their continuous support of her dedication to the theatre.

Shelley Johnson (Luciana) is a senior Theatre major with a double minor in Music and Spanish. Shelley is thrilled to be performing in her first full Shakespeare play. Favorite roles include Masha in *The Three Sisters*, Soot in *Marriage of Bette and Boo* and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Shelley would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on this performance, especially Scot for "whipping" all of us in to a more professional theatre (Literally!). And a special thanks to her family and friends who have supported her through the rehearsal process. Enjoy the show everyone!

Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Designer/Shop Manager) This season is Shelley's 10th year at Mercer University. Her most recent designs were seen in *Celebration*, *Hot 'n' Throbbing* and *The Three Sisters*. She has also designed for productions with Mercer Opera, Theatre Macon, and Macon State. She has also appeared on-stage in productions that include *Rocket Man* at Mercer University, *The Women*, *Another Part of the Forest* and *The Hollow* at Theatre Macon and *The Voice of the Prairie* at Macon State. Shelley enjoys spending time with her family, which includes husband, Greg, mother, Marian McHugh (who also helps sew some of the wonderful costumes), sons, Jonathan and Patrick, daughter, Laurel and son-in-law, Matt, daughter Marissa and